

*Circular to Public and Separate School Inspectors.*

For several years efforts have been made by the Education Department to improve the condition of the schools in parts of the Province where French is the language generally spoken by the members of the community. It is well known that there is a strong desire manifested by parents whose native language is French, to give their children a fair knowledge of the English language, which is yearly becoming more important from a commercial and national point of view. The establishment, some years ago of an English-French Training School at Plantagenet, did much towards improving the condition of the schools in the eastern part of Ontario. Advancement, has not, however, been as rapid as would be desirable, owing to the difficulty of securing teachers who have the necessary knowledge of both the English and French languages. It is evident the pupils of the schools will receive better training if higher academic and professional attainments are required of the teachers.

## QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS.

Thus far it has been found necessary to combine the academic and professional training of the teachers, but the time has now come when it is desirable to separate these two parts of a teacher's qualifications, as has long been the case in the training of English speaking teachers. With this object in view, persons seeking to qualify for teachers of Bi-Lingual Schools, on and after September, 1900, will confine their attention during the academic year, ending in June, to the non-professional requirements, which may be taken at Plantagenet, or elsewhere. The examination will be on the same papers (the standard to be hereafter determined) as those prescribed for the Public School Leaving (Part I., Junior Leaving) examination, together with question papers in French Grammar and French Composition. The candidates who pass this examination will be required to undertake subsequently, from September to December, a course of professional training, somewhat on the same lines as that now exacted of candidates for Provincial Third Class Certificates. This course is to be taken in Ottawa, and arrangements made by which the candidates may have some of the advantages of the Normal School. It is also intended to have certificates obtained in this way,



valid for any school in the Province where the Inspector may certify that a French Bi-Lingual teacher is required. The duration of such certificates will be three years, renewals under certain conditions to be granted on the recommendation of the Inspector. It is to be understood that these provisions will not affect the rights of teachers who have already obtained certificates under the present regulations.

#### METHODS OF TEACHING.

Teachers of French Bi-Lingual Schools should make it a special duty to render the pupils acquainted with the English language, and in ungraded schools should, therefore, devote about two hours daily to the teaching of English—reading, spelling, composition, oral English, &c. In graded schools each teacher should give, at least, one hour daily—the time to be increased at the request of the Inspector. The regulation requiring that, so far as possible, all communication between pupils and teacher shall be in English, must be carefully observed. There should be little teaching of English from books until the pupils have gained a fair knowledge of oral English. To this end the teachers should follow the instructions in the circular prepared by the Education Department on the teaching of English.

Your obedient Servant,

R. HARCOURT,

*Minister of Education.*

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,

TORONTO, August 1st, 1900.